

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

NIC-01 CU-04 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSE-00

XMB-07 INT-08 CIEP-02 STR-08 MC-02 DRC-01 SCEM-02

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R 121448Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9752

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 7182

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EG, JO, SY

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN AND BETWEEN EGYPT-SYRIA-JORDAN

REF: AMMAN 4880 NOTAL, LONDON 10298 NOTAL, CAIRO 2533 NOTAL

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1. MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS DIRECTOR VERED OF FOREIGN MINISTRY

IN SEPT 12 DISCUSSION OF AREA SITUATION WITH EMBOFF EVINced CONCERN THAT HUSSEIN WAS UNDER PRESSURE AT CAIRO SUMMIT AND MIGHT MAKE SECRET CONCESSIONS RE REINTRODUCTION OF FEDAYEEN AND FOREIGN ARAB REGULAR FORCES INTO JORDAN. MRS VERED SAID FEDAYEEN WERE NAGGING EGYPT TO PRESS HUSSEIN HARD AND HAD ALSO INDUCED QADHAFI TO DO SAME. FACT TALKS HAD BEEN PROLONGED COULD ONLY MEAN THERE WAS SOME GIVE AND TAKE, AND HUSSEIN HAD LITTLE TO OFFER SADAT AND ASSAD BESIDES SUCH CONCESSIONS.

2. IN MRS VERED'S OPINION, EXAMPLE OF SAIQA MODERATION OF VIEW ON ISSUE OF EGYPT-SYRIA RAPPROCHEMENT WITH JORDAN WAS UNLIKELY TO BE FOLLOWED BY OTHER FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS (AMMAN REFTEL). OTHER FEDAYEEN OPPOSED RAPPROCHEMENT ON NOT ONLY TACTICAL BUT ALSO IDEOLOGICAL GROUNDS, AND THIS INCLUDED FATAH, WHICH HAD BECOME RADICALIZED LATELY.

3. MRS VERED REMARKED HUSSEIN APPEARED TO HAVE PUT HIS PALESTINIAN FEDERATION PLAN IN DEEP FREEZE TO IMPROVE PROSPECTS FOR RAPPROCHEMENT WTH EGYPT AND SYRIA. (COMMENT. THERE IS SOME IRONY IN APPARENT ISRAELI REGRET AT POSSIBLE DEMISE OF FEDERATION PLAN, CONSIDERING COLD WATER WHICH GOI POURED ON PLAN WHEN IT WAS ANNOUNCED.)

4. MRS VERED DISCUSSED TREND IN EGYPT TOWARD DE-NASSERIZATION WHICH WAS ACCOMPANYING GROWING GOI ATTENTION TO INTERNAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (CAIRO REFTEL). THIS WAS EXCELLENT DEVELOPMENT FROM ISRAEL VIEWPOINT, SHE SAID. HOWEVER, SHE REGRETTED THAT GREATER DEMOCRATIZATION WAS NOT PART OF PICTURE, AT LEAST NOT YET, SAYING THAT FOURTH WAVE OF ARRESTS IN 1973 HAD OCCURRED ONLY LAST MONTH IN CONNECTION WITH EGYPTIAN TRADE-UNION AND STUDENT ELECTIONS.

5. MRS VERED, AWARE THAT UK AND SYRIA ARE APPROACHING REESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS (LONDON REFTEL), WAS CURIOUS ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR IMPROVED US-SYRIAN RELATIONS. SHE COMMENTED THAT SYRIA MIGHT WELL SEEK TO FOLLOW IRAQ'S EXAMPLE IN BETTERING ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH WEST. THIS CONNECTION, SHE SAID PROSPECTS THAT IRAQ COULD DOUBLE ITS OIL EXPORTS BY 1976 WERE GOOD, ESPECIALLY IF NEW EXIM-
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BANK FINANCING FOR IRAQI PORT ABOUT WHICH SHE HAD HEARD WAS PART OF THIS EFFORT. BUT SHE DOUBTED SYRIA COULD MOVE FAR FROM SOVIET POLITICAL SPHERE IN WOOING WEST ECONOMICALLY, SOVIETS HAVING STRONG HOLD ON DAMASCUS AND HAVING ANSWERED SYRIAN ARMS REQUESTS GENEROUSLY.

6. MRS VERED ATTRIBUTED MAIN INITIATIVE FOR CURRENT EGYPT-SYRIA-JORDAN RAPPROCHEMENT TO SYRIA. SYRIA, IN TURN,

WAS CONCERNED ABOUT SUPPOSED STRATEGIC NEED TO NEUTRALIZE
ITS SOUTHEAST BORDER, THROUGH WHICH SYRIANS FEARED
ISRAELIS COULD PENETRATE (BOTH NOW AND IN A HOT WAR) UNLESS
JORDANIAN COOPERATION WERE SECURED.
KEATING

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